

A clip from Sam - regarding stones-

He suggests -rose cut or faceted stones in the 7-9 mm size or larger but not larger than 20 mm. He will also bring some to sell.

regarding metals-

I'm wondering the easiest way to do materials like gold and silver. I usually work off of a bigger sheet of 22k and cut my bezel stripes from that. It might be easiest if I bring a decent sized sheet and we can weigh and keep track of what people are using from it and add up at the end charging cost.

I use 29 gauge and 30 gauge 22k gold sheet. 24 gauge 28 gauge silver sheet. I like palladium silver for the bases rather than regular sterling in hopes it won't tarnish behind the transparent gems. If doing all gold pieces I also use 28 gauge 18k for seats and bases or 18k palladium white gold in 28 gauge for bases behind stones I want to keep the color more true. 18k gold or sterling silver tubes for setting small round stones to use as spacers between settings. We will also need solder. This is why I think it might be easier to bring material rather than put together some sort of kit for everyone, since each person's needs will most likely be different. What are your thoughts on it?

I think for gems people can bring whatever they want to work with. I can also get some less expensive stones to bring along and sell people at cost. Anything faceted is great practice in squares, ovals, rectangles, tear drops, marquises, or hexagons.

I can try and get some other fun geometric shapes closer to the time.

Pearls or rough gems with uneven surfaces are always good as well. I can bring some to demo with. I just searched gems on Rio Grande and they do have some kite shapes, hexagons and elongated hexagons. So that is a place we could get some fun shapes to work with. They aren't too terribly expensive depending on the gems.

More on stones from Sam

Full faceted are great because making the interior seat is a good skill to practice. The taller the stone depth the taller the bezel will need to be, which will be a little more expensive in gold if they use that. Something to keep in mind. The geometric I keep mentioning are more rose cut, so flat on the bottom and angular sides.

Something around 9mm x 7mm is a nice size to work with. They get tricky when the stones and settings are really small or really big. Even something around 20mm is a nice size to work with. When I say really big I mean like 2 or 3 inches.

Matched pairs are also nice if someone wants to make studs or other kind of earrings. Making sure the settings look the same is a good exercise.

Hope that is helpful. I know you want to get info out to people way ahead of time so they know what to expect. I'll be able to provide pictures of available stones I'll bring closer to the time.